

Kingston Parish & Church Magazine



April 2021

Village Diary

While the Village Hall is currently closed, subject to the Government restrictions, hopefully these restrictions will be eased in the near future.

Wheelie bin collection dates

Friday 9 th April (changed date)	Blue and Green bins
Thursday 15 th April (changed date)	Black bin
Wednesday, 21 st April	Blue and Green bins
Wednesday, 28 th April	Black bin

Editorial

Giving to the community is obviously this month's theme. Peter Stokes has now published the compendium of the scripts of Jim Burnell's Pantomimes that kept villagers in stitches back in the 1980s and 1990s. Peter must be congratulated on this labour of love and all profits will be paid to the Arthur Rank Hospice charity in Cambridge which looked after Jim in his final weeks.

It's the twenty-first anniversary of the Kingston Tapestry project this year (see Pat Draper's article below) and Tony Smart has handed over to the Village Hall Committee an album which contains a great deal of information on the project. The album is available to anybody who would like to peruse its contents.

Jo Murphy is continuing her month-long fund-raising walking efforts as is witnessed on this month's cover (again, see below).

It's so good to see that David Heath has emerged from the lockdown, ready to contribute to the magazine again.. His article in this issue will be much appreciated by all his friends and regular readers of this magazine.

Kingston continues to be a growing community hub of activity, with the weekly arrival of the fish and chips van and the Saturday night arrival of Angie's Kitchen (on a trial basis), not forgetting, of course, the monthly pizza night, next scheduled for April 17th.

More community news is included in the Parish Council News in this issue.

Peter Holly pjholly45@gmail.com 01223 264 556

Vicar's Letter

April 23rd is the day this country remembers St George, the patron saint of England – and also of Aragon, Canada, Catalonia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Palestine, Portugal, Russia, and Serbia.

In historical fact, George was a soldier in the army of the Roman Empire, but many legends have grown up around him.

One such story is that he once saw 40 Christians being killed and that when they died he saw a vision of 40 crowns coming down from heaven and landing on their heads. This made such an impression on him that he became a Christian himself.

The best-known story about George, though, is that he fought a dragon.

While we may not believe in real, flying-around, breathing-fire dragons, in a way we do all have dragons to fight. They are the things we're afraid of: things that are too big for us, too powerful, too dangerous; things we would rather run away from.

There are many things which we might see as dragons in our own lives or in the wider world: debt, illness, addiction, covid, climate collapse, terrorism – I'm sure there are things you would add for yourself.

G K Chesterton wrote "Fairy tales do not tell children the dragons exist. Children already know that dragons exist. Fairy tales tell children the dragons can be killed."

The story of George is an encouragement to us to face those fears, those dragons, and get rid of them. There are often practical things we can do to defeat the dragons in our lives, and there are people and organisations who will help us if we ask.

But many of the resources and 'weapons' we need are mental and spiritual. In a Bible passage which George would have felt right at home with as a Roman soldier, Saint Paul describes how we need to take "the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of whatever will make us ready to proclaim the gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (from Ephesians chapter 6)

This April, let's follow in the fabled footsteps of St. George, fully equipped in the armour of God, and go dragon slaying!.

Rev. Steve Day

Church services for April

Sunday 4th April EASTER SUNDAY Family Communion 10.30am

Sunday 18th April Family Service 10.30am

Masks must be worn in church and only the celebrant is allowed to take wine at communion.

ZOOM Chapel:

Maundy Thursday, April 1st 9.00pm Compline via Zoom

Good Friday April 5th Stations of the Cross at Midday via Zoom

Saturday 3rd April Easter Vigil via Zoom **8.30pm**

Easter Day via Zoom at **11.30am**

Sunday 11th April 10.00am Team Service 6.00pm Evening Prayer

Morning Prayer (Mon – Sat) at 8.15am except Bank Holiday Monday 5th April

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7.30pm except 7th April

Compline on Thursdays at 9pm except 8th April

Telephone service on Mondays at 5.00pm except Bank Holiday Monday 5th April

For further information and the new Zoom link see www.papworthteamchurches.org

The church remains open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

EASTER 2021 SUNDAY 4th APRIL 10.30 am



All are very welcome to come along to celebrate this festival of resurrection, hope and new life. An Easter egg hunt will follow the service.

Church cleaning

1 st Sunday	Peter and Suzy Stokes
2 nd Sunday	Donal and Monica O'Donnell
3 rd Sunday	Peter Reynolds
4 th Sunday	Janet Clear
5 th Sunday	Linda Rimmer

Church flowers and brasses

4 th April	Linda Smith
11 th April	Lee Steele
18 th April	Christine Stone
25 th April	Christine Allison

Work Day

Many thanks to Keith and Chris Allison, Neil Campbell, James and Janet Clear, Lee Steele, and Peter Stokes for turning out for our work day on the 6th March.

P.R. and K.F.

Gift Day 10th July 2021

This year's main fund raising event for the church will be our biennial Gift Day on Saturday, 10th July. This may be combined with a small-scale sale of goods in the churchyard if Covid regulations permit.

Cancellations

Cambridge Folk Festival 2021 has been cancelled amid uncertainty over the coronavirus pandemic.

Organisers of the event, planned for 29th July to 1st August, said it will not be going ahead after an "incredibly difficult decision". Anyone with tickets will be offered a choice of a full refund or rolling their tickets forward to 2022 at 2020 prices.

The city council, which organises the event, also announced that Cambridge's Big Weekend on Parker's Piece has been called off.

MARK STEELE

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April Pub Evening

Pizzas will be served on Saturday 17th April, not on the usual first Saturday. This is because, if the weather is good, the Covid relaxations of rules for the hospitality sector mean that we can have an outdoor pub evening. If the weather is poor, it will be just pizzas and takeaway drinks. Of course, all these regulations are subject to change and you will be updated nearer the time via the village email.

Paul Wright

Giving to the Community

Dear All

You will remember that Jo Murphy is raising money for Cancer Research UK by accepting a challenge to do 10,000 steps every day during March. Halfway through her gruelling target, she has sent in the following progress report:

"Thank you all for your really generous donations and amazing words of encouragement. Some of you may have seen me doing my steps around the village come rain or shine! Going good so far, half way through and am so pleased to have kept up the challenge of 10,000 steps a day on average, totalling nearly 60 miles!!"

For those of you sceptics who didn't think Jo was up to this, now is the time to accept that she is on track for success! Please sponsor her now, if you haven't already done so.

Peter Stokes

MAKE A DONATION / MAKE A DIFFERENCE

BOURN SCHOOL CHROME BOOKS APPEAL

Thank you so much to everyone who has given to help the school provide Chrome Books for the children.

If you meant to give but never got round to it, it isn't too late.

You can give via the Just Giving page at

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/BournChromebooks2021>

If a cheque or cash is easier you can drop your donation into Linda Fuller at 2 Short Street. Cheques should be payable to Bourn School Association and please mark your envelope Chrome Books appeal.



The 21st anniversary of our Millennium Tapestry

This year marks the 21st anniversary of our Millennium tapestry which hangs in the Village Hall and it may interest you to learn something of the history behind it. It was Betty Smart who conceived and coordinated the project and in January 2000 Betty wrote an article for the magazine to explain how work was progressing. The following excerpts trace the story up to that point:

"We first met in December 1998 to take up the challenge..... Initially there were five volunteers: Irene Hayman, Doreen Gotts, Naomi Watkins, Miki Ellar and myself as Coordinator. None of us had attempted such a big project before..... By (our second meeting) I had come across a picture of a Welsh tapestry which gave me inspiration for a design and instantly met with approval from the group.

"We selected 16 houses which we thought represented the different styles of housing in the village. These form a wide border around a linen panel which incorporates a map of the village with village scenes. We then had to find a way of sharing out the work. Eventually we opted for individual canvasses which could be joined at a later stage We also sought the advice of an embroidery teacher on suitable materials for the tapestry. Photographs were taken of the houses and after a little trial and error we eventually got a basic outline of the houses on to canvas.*

"In the meantime more volunteers came forward: Alison Arnold, Pam Coombs, Liz FitzJohn, Pat Draper and Gloria Hitchens.

"Stitching began in late February and thereafter we met monthly to swap ideas, give inspiration and keep focussed. It soon became apparent that everybody had been hiding their light under a bushel for there was a wealth of talent and plenty of artistic flair. Each stitcher gave their own interpretation to the design of the house they were stitching and occasionally used a little artistic licence".

Betty had set herself a daunting task, sewing the central panel on much finer fabric. It was intricate work and a strain on the eyes. She then had to assemble the individual components to construct the final tapestry, measuring 107 x 84 cm. The outer border, on canvas, has a total of 223,875 stitches, mainly worked in tent stitch. The central panel on linen (32 threads to the inch) measures 58 x 43 cm. and is mainly worked in cross stitch - over 100,000 of them!

Costs were covered by contributions from parishioners to a Millennium fund. Once framed, by Simon Robinson of Melbourn, the tapestry was hung in the Village Hall (originally over the fireplace but later moved to avoid dampness from the outer wall). It was officially unveiled by Sybil Marshall, who ran the village school until its

closure in 1959, and remains an impressive and colourful record of Kingston which villagers can enjoy for years to come.

*Two of the panels show Kingston Church and the Village Hall. The houses featured are Kingston Wood Manor, Moat House Farm, The Old Rectory, The Old Post Office, The Thatches, Crossways Cottage, Payne's Farm, Prior's Cottage, Broadlands, Old Farm House, The House on the Green, 9 & 10 Cranes Lane, Orchard Cottage and South Sea House.

Pat Draper

Parish Council News

Dog owners: there has been a marked improvement reported in incidents of dog waste found on the footpath beyond Field Road, so if this is you, thank you for picking up! It has been decided not to install dog waste bins at the start of popular walk routes for the time being, mainly for reasons of cost but also because there was some resistance to this option. We will continue to monitor the situation. Our thanks are due to those thoughtful residents who have collected discarded bags. Please let me know if the situation starts to worsen again.

Status of Kingston Village Hall Management Committee: like many organisations of this kind, members are vulnerable to being held individually liable in the event of a claim – for example if someone was injured due to a loose floorboard. Although the village hall insurance would normally cover the cost of a claim, this would only follow the establishment of legal liability in court. It is not pleasant to have to face such a claim as an individual, even if the insurance pays up, but as long as the committee remains an 'unincorporated body', the law does not recognise it as a legal entity so liability falls on individuals.

The committee has embarked on a project to correct this by changing the status of the committee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It will then be an 'Incorporated Body', legally recognised as an entity which can be sued, held responsible, sign contracts etc, thus giving protection to individual committee members. Chris Reid is leading this proposal, with the support and agreement of the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee of the hall, currently the legal owners.

Toft Shop Collection Scheme: we know this has been very useful for a number of people during the worst of the pandemic, but usage is now dwindling and so it will be discontinued from the end of March. However, our team of volunteers are keen to continue to offer help for those in need, so please contact me (Peter Stokes, pandsstokes@gmail.com) if you are housebound or otherwise in

difficulty, even temporarily, and need someone to fetch shopping, collect a prescription, or anything like that. I will, I am sure, have no difficulty finding someone who can help.

Keep an eye out for your neighbours: it has been widely remarked upon that the pandemic has really shown how neighbourly and considerate people can be to one another. Moreover, there has been expressed a widespread hope that this will continue beyond the pandemic – that we will all enter a new age of increased awareness of the communities around us and the benefits of mutual support. Kingston has always been pretty good at this anyway, but this is just a reminder to be aware of your neighbours – especially if they are single, elderly or otherwise in any way vulnerable, even perhaps temporarily (eg recent sickness, hospital visit etc). Strike up and maintain a rapport so that they are not afraid to ask for help if they need it, and keep a regular lookout for signs that anything is amiss, such as curtains drawn in the daytime, no signs of movement etc. I know of course that many of you already do this!

Parish Clerk: As the lockdown lifts and things are heading back to normal, we have agreed that Mimi Wheeler's start date as Clerk to Kingston Parish Council (and therefore my end date) will be 1 April 2021. This is the start of the new financial year. From that date, please address any queries, problems etc to Mimi – her contact details are:

Mrs Mimi Wheeler
4, Kingston Wood Farm Cottages
Ermine Way
Arrington
Royston SG8 0AN
Tel: 01954 714947
Mob: 07967 675628

Email: kingstonpc.cambridge@gmail.com (unchanged)

There will be an overlap period after 1 April during which I will support Mimi as long as needed, so some matters may end up being batted between us, depending on who is the best person to deal with it. Mimi lives in Kingston parish, but her location is somewhat remote from the village, and due to this and her previous work commitments, she does not know many people in the village. However, a change in her personal circumstances has resulted in more free time, and she is hoping to get to know more of you in the months ahead.

Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk

A BOY AND A BIKE

Cycling for pleasure and exercise has revived considerably of late even among the affluent car users and some people might be interested in my initiation into two wheeled travel some eighty years ago.

It could be said that it was old Mr. Trundle who unwittingly set me off on the two wheeled exploration of Britain and beyond in 1940. I say 'old' for to me, a boy of 15, he was old at 65 and a recently retired agricultural worker. I had just arrived at Grantchester as a reluctant London evacuee when I made his acquaintance. He lived next door to The Rose and Crown, a tiny "spit and sawdust" pub but now a large, up market, establishment and re-named The Rupert Brooke, where he was a regular customer.

I had the use of a derelict and neglected cycle which belonged to my Dad who was now in France in the R.A.F. but I needed something better. Having retired Trundle had decided that he did not need his nearly new cycle anymore and wanted to sell it. It was a good quality sports model complete with a Sturmy Archer 3 speed gear and fitted dynamo in pristine condition. I was interested but Trundle wanted £12 for it which I could not afford. However he said he would rather have half a crown a week as this would pay his 'beer money' for a long time whereas a lump sum would be frittered away if he had it all at once! The deal was done although it took two years to complete.

I had obtained a dead end job as an office dog's body at one of the many independent grocery shops in Cambridge. This one was that of G.P. Jones and Sons in Kings Parade and next door to Ben Hayward and Son, a cycle sale and repair shop. My new conveyance was therefore in immediate use for work. I seemed to spend most of my time in the back office counting food ration coupons, running errands and being shouted at by old Mr Jones. He called me "Hearn" which was the name of the previous unfortunate in the job. If my efforts displeased him, which was often, his favourite shout was "Hearn, go to the butchers and buy two 'pennorth' of sheep's brains and drink the gravy!"

My urge to explore the local villages and countryside soon took hold now that I was mobile but my struggles with wind, rain and modest hills quickly convinced me that my 'sit up and beg' sports model required some adaptation. With the help of Ben Hayward and son I reversed the handlebar so that it became something like a dropped pair of 'bends', lighter mudguards and a "Brooks B15" saddle. The popular, even more narrow, "B17" was used by dedicated hard riders but my choice was more suitable for touring. They both needed many miles of use to adapt to the shape of the nether regions of the owner!

With these changes my riding and map reading improved over a period and I developed the illusion that I could ride with a club. One Sunday morning I headed for Mitcham's Corner which was the advertised starting place for a ride at 8.30 am for members of the Cambridge Town and County Cycling Club. Alas there was no one there and no one turned up. After a long wait I decided to do the ride on my own. The destination was Kentford village just beyond Newmarket and I was soon comfortably pedalling along the Newmarket road. I had covered several miles when I heard the rhythmic hum of multi tyres on tarmac coming up behind me and a group of riders, heads down, sped past me in disciplined pairs. By the time I was convinced they were my lot I was lagging far behind but I struggled to catch them, or at least keep them in sight. It was more than difficult but I hung on and after passing through Newmarket's empty high street I saw them again in the distance arriving at the little bridge in the centre of Kentford village. I pushed myself to the limit and when at last I reached them I was so shattered that I fell off my steed gasping. "Are you the Town and County?" To my dismay, the leader confirmed but said "Right lads, back we go!". One rider joined me as we mounted again to ride with me at the rear for a while as I tried to keep up. He explained that this was a training spin and urged me to join an all-day lanes circular at an easier pace on the following Sunday. I was naive enough to take him at his word and we covered almost 100 miles. On the homeward section I suffered severe cycling exhaustion known then, and possibly still is, as "THE BONK".

On hearing of my experience a Grantchester based rider advised me to join THE CYCLIST'S TOURING CLUB and start with the LOITERERS SECTION. I did so and remained a keen member for many years. A regular and comprehensive program thrived even during the war years and my hybrid served me well for a time. I enjoyed some great explorations but I began to hanker for a real lightweight as owned by many of the other club members. On a whim one day I had a closer look at Dad's derelict machine lying abandoned in the shed. I tried to clean it up a bit and noticed that a name was mostly hidden under the dirt and grime. A closer look revealed that the words seemed to be FREDDIE GRUBB. I mentioned this to the cycle repair mechanic employed by Ben Haywood and Son and he immediately enthused that Freddie was a well-known Midlands lightweight cycle specialist. The upshot was that the mechanic, based next door to G.P. Jones, undertook to re-spray the frame and restore the insignia. With his help I was then able to re-build the machine using new narrow gauge wheels, mudguards and other lightweight accessories, plus, of course my beloved, broken in, B15 saddle. We had, in effect, produced a sparkling new machine which I could be proud of!

I enjoyed many good Club and lone rides during the couple of years before my spell in the R.A.F intervened but one in particular stays vividly in my memory. Lawrence, the club member based at Grantchester, asked me to keep him company on a night ride to Huddersfield. He was a Yorkshire lad with a stutter who was well known in the Club for his often repeated comment on rides. "EE - BUT IT'S A G'G'GRAND. D'D'DAY". Huddersfield was his home town and we were to stay with his aunt and uncle for a few days. An added attraction, in these wartime days of food rationing, was that his aunt was a restaurant manageress and uncle was a butcher so we would not go hungry! With the permission of my mother, although she had misgivings, we set off one fine Sunday evening after work. On our fully loaded bikes we headed for Huntingdon to join the A 1 on our route north, a very different A1 to that of today. Mostly single carriageway, it passed directly through most of the towns and villages on route with little in the way of by-passes or duelling. After the slight evening traffic it grew strangely quiet before we reached the village of Stilton and the well-known coaching inn, The STILTON BELL

Refreshed here by pints of shandy we pressed on in the increasing darkness in the wartime blackout. Our way was lit only by our feeble cycle headlamps and the rising moon. The silence was broken only by occasional passing Army convoys, the hoot of owls and church clock bells. Small towns such as Stamford, Grantham and Newark slipped behind us and the only incidents I remember were the vain attempt to have a nap in a straw filled barn plus a welcome bacon 'sarni' in an all-night transport cafe. Beyond Doncaster we left

the A1 into the more hilly country to the northwest, at last dismounting wearily in the morning sunshine at 'Aunties' having clocked up no less than 156 MILES.

The days which followed we mostly spent exploring the high Pennine moorlands, often seeing below the countless tall chimneys, billowing dirty smoke and blackening the industrial towns in the valleys. I know that, today, world-wide travellers will consider our trip to be nothing to write home about but to me, then, it was an exciting glimpse of much wider explorations to come.

David Heath

Photos: David riding both the bikes mentioned here



Caring for the Community

A little reminder about the vulnerability of ground nesting wildlife now spring is coming.

As I wrote last year in the April magazine, now is the time when those birds who build nests on the ground (lapwings, yellow hammers, partridge in particular) are starting to make their nests. They were a common sight in my youth but some are now very rare. When you are walking around the area please spare a thought for the ground nesting wildlife (which also includes hares who produce their leveretts all year round) and ensure that dogs are under control. Birds forced away from their nests may not return before their eggs are cold.

We must keep our dwindling wildlife safe for ourselves and future generations.

Thank you,

Charlie Richmond

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County Councillor Report- March 2021



Dear all,

As we continue through a very challenging time, I would like to remind you that you are not alone and that there is plenty of help and support out there. The Covid Hub remains active for anyone who needs help. 03450 455 219.

Census21 is here!

Census 2021 is coming, with Census day on Sunday 21 March. By taking part, you will help to inform future decisions on services that shape your community, such as healthcare, education and transport.

The census is a unique survey that happens every 10 years. It provides a snapshot of all the people and households in England and Wales – the most detailed information we have about our society.

<https://census.gov.uk/>

Laptops campaign reaches half a million pounds



A campaign to help disadvantaged children across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to get internet and laptop access is gathering pace, with the first batch of equipment being delivered to schools this week.

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council launched the 'Laptops for Children' campaign earlier this month in partnership with the Youth Panel, Cambridge Digital Direct, Cambridge 2030 and the Cambridge Culture Foundation, aimed at purchasing laptops and 4G routers for vulnerable young people.

Around 8,000 children in the region do not have use of a computer or broadband, meaning they cannot access lessons and online resources, putting them at risk of falling behind with their studies.

Just over two weeks after launching the campaign, an impressive £567,845 has already been raised thanks to support from businesses and individuals, as well as funding from both authorities. A first batch of over 1,000 laptops and 460 routers have been purchased and will be distributed to schools from this week.

Girton interchange could be upgraded!

As many of you know the Girton interchange has been a key area of focus. In the past 4 years I have been working with conservative colleagues locally, the Mayor and for the last year with Anthony Browne MP. I hope you have seen the article on the news, Anthony has succeeded in getting Highways to do another appraisal of the interchange. This is great news because we thought it would take longer for this to happen. This is one step forward...

Local updates

Comberton: Planning Application CCC/20/076/Ful Comberton Village College for Proposed Ground Source Heat Pump System consisting of heat pumps and buffers/storage to be accommodated within a proposed energy centre, borehole array and connecting pipework.

Multiple roads being resurfaced in March.

Hardwick: Footpath improvement to start in March.

The Eversdens: Finch's Field, Little Eversden, carriageway surfacing works in March.

As always, here to serve you and help in any way I can.

Yours,

Lina Nieto

E-mail: lina.nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07402 351821

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Twitter and Facebook: @CllrLinaNieto

Book of the Month

Last month I reviewed "The Camomile Lawn", a minor classic by Mary Wesley. Since then I've worked my way through some of her other books. While they don't achieve the heights of the first book, they still offer a treasury of dark humour, coincidence, and social commentary, with Cornwall still being the focal point of much of the action. In her first book to be published, "Jumping the Queue", the central character, Matilda Poliport, recently widowed and largely estranged from her four children, contemplates suicide, until taking in a suspected murderer on the run from the law. Death is the central theme here (an ongoing obsession on the author's part) and it is probably the darkest of her books. Even so, there is plenty of her characteristic humour as she unravels surprising information about her house guest, her former husband, her neighbours, her off-spring, and herself. One feature of the Wesley philosophy that emerges here is her love of animals (she trusts them more than humans, she says) and, besides her beloved dogs, she has a pet gander

who waddles around her cottage leaving deposits in his wake. As becomes clear, Mary Wesley's characters are much like her: unconventional, quirky and full of surprises. In "Harnessing Peacocks", Mary Wesley plumbs the depths of social connections, coincidental relationships, and sexual encounters (another familiar theme in her books). When pregnant as a teenager, the central character, Hebe, is forced to run away from her family and start a new life in Cornwall with her new son. To survive, she falls back on her two areas of expertise, cooking and making love. This comparatively simple life becomes much more complicated over time as her past – and, indeed, her present – catches up with her. One thing typical of her writing which is high-lighted here is her acute observation of middle class mores and customs. Probably my favourite book of hers after "The Camomile Lawn" is "Part of the Furniture". Again set during the Second World War, Juno, a seventeen year old girl who has become separated from her family, finds her way to Cornwall, is taken in by a local farmer and is given work milking the cows (something which she really enjoys), only to find she is pregnant. This book is a love story but a very quirky one. It is also another set of brilliant observations about the complications and coincidences of middle class life. This is the kind of book that you stay up way too late to see how the various twists and turns come to completion. You won't be disappointed.

Given the quirkiness of her books and the acuity of her social observations, her biography by Patrick Marnham (titled "Wild Mary") is well worth a read. Given her tempestuous life, it wasn't until her seventies that she settled down to become a novelist (partly to make ends meet). Wesley always denied that her books were in any way autobiographical, but when you compare her books to her life story, it becomes clear that her life experiences definitely inform and add flavour to her writing. Born in the same year as my mother (1912), while their lives covered the same historical events, they lived very different lives: very conventional on the part of my mother and very unconventional on Wesley's part. Her book "A Sensible Life" (a humorous aside in itself) describes the kind of early life she herself experienced with the central character, a ten year old girl, virtually abandoned by her parents and left to fecklessly wander the streets of Dinard in France, a then playground for upper class British holiday makers. This degree of freedom experienced by such a young person was to have deep repercussions for both the character and the writer. The Second World War was definitely Wesley's coming-out period and, for her, what many people experienced in terms of personal liberation in the 1960s, occurred some twenty years earlier when the war eroded social and sexual conventions. The humour in her books is not laugh-out-loud stuff; it is more subtle and creeps up on you; it is her nuanced social observations of her class that set her apart from other writers. I warmly recommend her to you.

Peter Holly

South Cambridgeshire strides ahead

The pandemic remains at the forefront of everyone's mind, but I'm pleased that we're now charting the course away from the difficulties of the last year. The vaccination programme continues apace in South Cambridgeshire, thanks to the enormous efforts of our NHS staff and volunteers. We now have the government's roadmap to help schools, businesses, and families to plan for the future.

See below to find out what I've been focusing on over the last month, including:

- Making the case for an upgraded Girton Interchange.
- Pushing Thakeham to drop their proposed 25,000 home scheme.
- Holding meetings with ministers and campaign groups to push for a full consultation on a northern route for East-West Rail.
- Bringing together industry leaders to promote negative carbon emissions standards.
- Campaigning for South Cambridgeshire to be classed as water-stressed to help save our chalk streams.

Campaign updates

East-West Rail

Having met with the Rail Minister, I am supporting the local case for a full and open consultation process on a Northern Route option.

Life Science

My inaugural South Cambridgeshire Life Sciences Forum allowed local life science businesses direct access to top Government policy makers.


Thakeham Proposals

Last week I met with the CEO of Thakeham and asked him to drop his proposals and to confirm there was no route to bypass the planning process.

Planning & Development

My South Cambridgeshire Development survey is now closed. I'm pleased to say we received almost 3,000 responses, and I want to thank everyone who wrote in.

Anthony Browne



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News Update From Bourn Primary

As I write, it is almost exactly a year since schools closed for the first time, and two weeks since the children have returned after the second school closure. When I say 'closed', of course we haven't actually been closed! As with previous lockdowns, we continued to provide education on site to vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers, as well as provide lessons for those children at home. What has been different this time, has been the use of Google Classroom. This is an online learning platform where teachers post the children's work for the day. Many lessons were videos teachers had made of themselves teaching a lesson, others were videos from Oak Academy (an online teaching organisation set up in the first lockdown), other lessons have been powerpoints, activities and quizzes. Children completed their work and uploaded it so that the teachers could see it and give feedback. We set up video meetings for children each day and teachers would use this time for checking the children understood their work, doing spelling tests, philosophy 4 children sessions and there was even an online party! By the time children returned to school, the teachers were experts at using the technology, but I have to say it was the steepest learning curve many of us have faced in our teaching careers!

Our parents have done an amazing job of supporting their children in accessing their lessons, as well as helping them complete them. Much of the English and maths curriculum has changed since parents were at school themselves, so there was a lot of parental learning too (fronted adverbial, split digraph, bar method etc!) Often, parents have also been working from home as well as supervising home learning and this has been made all the more difficult with the less than high speed broadband across our villages.

There have been some real benefits that parents have shared with us. They have had an insight to their children's learning that they have never had before. By watching the teaching videos with their children, parents have understood more about how things are taught, and the range of subjects covered. We were able to cover almost every subject, and our PE teacher even produced fitness videos for children to follow (who needs Joe Wicks?)

This period has shown us how much we need new, and more devices for children to use to enhance their learning. Google Classroom has so much to offer in school as well as for remote learning, but we only have enough devices for one class at a time. I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the school's Just Giving Appeal to buy Chromebooks. The more devices we can buy, the more effectively we can use the technology to enhance children's learning.

Now the children have returned and the school hall is buzzing again at lunchtime and the sound of children at playtime and lunchtime echoes across the field. Of course, it is still not back to normal - children are still in their class bubbles and can't mix with other bubbles. We can't have assembly in the hall so these are done online in each classroom - but we do now have a whole school 'COVID safe' assembly on the front playground on a Friday morning. Our first one was last week and it was very cold but it was wonderful to see real children, in real life and not on a screen!

So, we move on and bounce back - again. Part of our school vision is 'Bourn is a school filled with hope', and this is how we work. Children are amazingly resilient and they are settling quickly back into school life. Yes, they may have missed some time in school, have missed some lessons and may have temporarily forgotten some things they have learned, but we don't work on a deficit model. We don't focus on 'lost learning', 'catch up', or even 'lost future earnings'. We look at what the children can do, and move them on. It is what good teaching always does - take children from where they are and move them on, at a pace just a little bit faster than they are comfortable with. We care for them, we support them, and together we will bounce back – higher than ever before.

Laura Latham

Headteacher, Bourn Primary Academy



hope courage justice forgiveness friendship

Kwirky Korner

We're all sick of getting scam calls from people claiming to be speaking on behalf of the likes of Amazon, BT and HRMC, but now the ultimate calls are being made. Why bother about being from a seemingly legitimate source? The aggressive voice on the new calls just says, "Give me a thousand pounds and I'll stop making scam calls to you." At least he gets to the point.

When the famous musician Yo-Yo Ma turned up for his second Covid jab at the Berkshire County College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, he brought his cello with him and, while waiting during the stipulated 15 minutes after receiving the jab, he gave an impromptu concert and entertained those present by playing Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in G major. It all goes to show that the jab's Bach is worse than its bite!

BBC viewers who watched the recent drama series "Bloodlands" starring James Nesbitt seem rather divided over its impact. Some viewers were fascinated by its

twists and turns. One viewer, representing those who were less than pleased with what they had watched, commented “That’s four hours of my life I’ll never get back.”

A Clarice Cliff plate recently featured on the Antiques Roadshow was thought to be worth £400 until one of the programme’s valuers assessed it be worth £10,000! The owner was last seen hot-footing it to the nearest auction.

Footballer, Angel di Maria, playing for the French team Paris Saint-Germain, was substituted early in the second half of the game against Nantes, not because of the quality of his play, but because his home had been burgled.

.....

Cat: Meow

Me: No. you cannot have a piece of chicken.

Cat: MEOW

Me: No chicken. You have food in your bowl.

Cat: MEEEOWWW

Me: Fine. Have a small piece of chicken.

The cat immediately wolfs down the chicken and throws up over my shoes.

.....

Once more Kingston leads the way. The BT Adopt-a-Kiosk programme has now been extended and made official and 4000 iconic red phone boxes are up for sale (for £1 each), so that they can be turned into mini museums, art galleries, libraries, and places to store defibrillators.

How can Cambridgeshire County Council help you?

Dear resident,

My name is Cllr Lina Nieto and I represent you at Cambridgeshire County Council. We are starting to work on what recovery looks like.

I would like to know what you think the council should do for you, what services to focus on, how services should be delivered, what is the best way of talking to you...

If you are going through a difficult situation, how can your council assist you to overcome it?

Please e-mail me your views: lina.nieto@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
or call/text me 0740 2351 821

LIVING GRAVEYARDS

John Devitt Stringfellow Pendlebury (12 October 1904 – 22 May 1941)

John Pendlebury is buried in Souda Bay on Crete, but his name is on the Trumpington war memorial, designed by Eric Gill, with the names of the WWII fallen inscribed by David Kindersley. Waiting at the traffic lights there one day I saw his distinctive name and recalled my headmaster, Nigel Hammond, who had been in the SOE in Crete, talking with admiration about a John Pendlebury who had fought alongside him in the war and about whom he had written a book. I looked him up and, sure enough, it is the same person.

After Winchester, he read classics and archaeology at Cambridge where Hammond, a contemporary, was also a classicist. He excelled as a sportsman, despite having lost an eye as a child, and was painted by Sir William Nicholson as "A Cambridge Blue, John D. S. Pendlebury".

On leaving university in 1927, Pendlebury won the Cambridge University Studentship to the British School at Athens where he energetically involved himself in the archaeology of the Aegean, exploring mainland Greece and the islands on foot. He married Hilda White, an archaeologist thirteen years his elder, and for a honeymoon the couple undertook a physically arduous exploration of the mountainous northern Peloponnese. They had a son and daughter.

His work was noticed by Arthur Evans who invited him to join the excavations at Knossos and in 1929 appointed him curator there. He and Evans fell out and in 1934 Pendlebury left to undertake his own excavations on the island. Patrick Leigh Fermor (who kidnapped General Kreipe in Crete) wrote that, "He [Pendlebury] got to know the island inside out. ... He spent days above the clouds and walked over 1,000 miles in a single archaeological season. His companions were shepherds and mountain villagers. He knew all their dialects ...". The Cretan foreman at Knossos recounted that, "[he] knew the whole island like his own hand, spoke Greek like a true Cretan, could make up mantinadas all night long, and could drink any Cretan under the table."

When war broke out, he joined the army and was appointed vice-consul in Heraklion, with the covert role of identifying routes, water sources and hiding places for men and stores, as well as liaising with local clan chiefs who would form the backbone of resistance during the German occupation. This work was to prove essential to SOE operatives like Hammond and Leigh Fermor.



In January 1941 he took part in a failed raid on the island of Kasos, in which Hammond was also involved. On 21 May 1941, when German troops took over Heraklion, Pendlebury slipped away in British army uniform with his Cretan friends heading for the village of Kapetanios Satanas, which was some 15 kilometres (9.3 mi) to the southwest. They had the intention of launching a counterattack, but on the way there Pendlebury left the vehicle to open fire on descending German paratroopers. Some Stukas came over and Pendlebury was wounded in the chest. A local woman took him into her nearby cottage, and he was laid on a bed. The cottage was overrun, and a German doctor treated him chivalrously, dressing his wounds and giving him an injection.



The next day Pendlebury had been changed into a clean shirt. The Germans were setting up a gun position nearby and a fresh party of paratroopers entered the cottage. They found Pendlebury who had lost his dog tags and was wearing a Greek shirt. As he was out of uniform and could not prove that he was a soldier, he was put against a wall outside the cottage and shot dead.

The German's referred to him as the "Cretan Lawrence" and Anthony Beevor said he was in the mould of British romantics, like Byron, who espoused the 19thC cause of Greek independence.

Hammond, in his book on Pendlebury wrote, *"...the Cretans themselves and Englishmen who followed in his steps in Crete and in Greece saw in him the symbol of honour which knows no defeat and the spirit of undying resistance"*.

Paul Wright

Record Corner

A Landslide of "Landslide"

I first came across this classic track by Fleetwood Mac some twenty years ago. My step-son, Otto, had just parted from a long-term girlfriend and, as we are all wont to do, made a "break-up tape" to salve his broken heart. And somehow or other I got a copy of the tape which became my constant driving accompaniment for a few months. While I wasn't trying to assuage anything, I was able to just enjoy his selection of music. Chief amongst these tracks was the aforementioned Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" which has become one of my favourite tracks ever.

Clearly, down the years, countless other people have felt the same way, which may help to explain why there have been so many covers by other singers and musicians, some of which became bigger hits than the original. Both the Dixie Chicks (now renamed The Chicks after their forays into political debate) and the Smashing Pumpkins took their versions into the top ten. Other covers have been made by the likes of Sufjan Stevens, Stacey Kent (a wonderful Country version), Ronan Keating, Tony Clarke, James Walker, Cabaret Voltaire, Tori Amos, The Japanese House, the cast of the show Glee, and many more, ranging across a variety of genres. Given Stevie Nicks' lustrously husky vocal on the original, the Fleetwood Mac version has always been my favourite – until now that is.

Watching TV recently, an advert for Airbnb came up with a haunting accompaniment. It took me a few seconds to locate the track in my mental jukebox. With the word "changes" (or, as it happens, "Changin'") standing out, I thought maybe it was a new version of the Black Sabbath song or even the one by David Bowie. But when the whole main verse is repeated it suddenly clicks. It's Landslide in all its glory.

Well, I've been afraid of changin'
 'Cause I've built my life around you
 But time makes you bolder
 Even children get older
 And I'm getting older too.

The reason why I didn't instantaneously recognize the track is the treatment it receives. Sung by Robyn Sherwell (in a 2017 recording), it's a sinewy, majestically wistful, and stripped down version of what was already a stripped down song. And it works! It's a slow, bitter-sweet barnstormer. Understated, sad and yearning, and quietly performed, it has a remarkable effect on the listener. While it doesn't replace the original in my affections, it sure rivals it in terms of its impact. It just goes to prove that loud music doesn't have the prerogative when it comes to storming your senses. This is an almost silent sound explosion. It also proves that you can't keep a great track down.

Peter Holly

Denny Abbey & the Farmland Museum hope to re-open in April.

Mountfitchet Castle & Museum reopens Mon 12 April <https://mountfitchetcastle.com/>

Season Premiere Drive-In Display at The Shuttleworth Collection,

Old Warden Aerodrome, SG18 9EP on Sun 2 May 10.00am-5.00pm

Adult £39, U16s free + car parking space £10. Details & booking at

<https://www.shuttleworth.org/events/seasonpremiere/>



Papworth Team Ministry (C of E)

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Our Team Administrator, Chris Westgarth, works in the office normally on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings; serving the parishes of Bourn, Boxworth, Caxton, Conington, Croxton, Elsworth, Eltisley, Graveley with Papworth St Agnes, Kingston, Knapwell, Lolworth, Longstowe, Papworth Everard, Toseland and Yelling.

For enquiries about weddings, baptisms, funerals and general parish matters, please contact Chris (as above), visit the website or speak to one of our clergy...

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- Half page: £7 (£70 for 12 issues)
- Quarter page: £5 (£50 for 12 issues)

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Cambridge Rail Station general inquiries	0845 7484950
Cambridge Water	01223 706050
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